

For

BOWLAND
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

JOSEPH J. SMITHIES,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR 1907.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the Year 1907.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. J. SMITHIES.

BOWLAND
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
1907.

I give this Report with pleasure because this year there is a clean bill of health, as the death rate is the lowest I have had.

There is also the least number of notifications of infectious disease since the Act was adopted.

I am, however, expected by the Local Government Board, to give a general geographical outline of the district.

The district is about nineteen miles wide by fourteen miles North to South. The river Hodder runs through its centre, and the river Ribble marks its course from a point at Nappa to Swan Side Brook foot, from this point the district is on the right hand side of the river for some seven or eight miles to the meeting of the waters (Ribble and Hodder) at Hodder foot. This is in the Mytton domain. The Lancashire Rural District

is on the opposite side of the river on this length. As the Hodder runs through the centre of this district, it is, with its various tributaries the chief means of drainage and water supply. There is very little pollution in either of these rivers. Salmon and Sea Trout spawn in both in great numbers from July to November according to the Summer spate and conditions of the waters.

The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway enters the district at a point near Twistle Bridge, Rimington, and on past Newsholme, a distance of about eight miles.

The district has an immense acreage, it is well wooded on both sides of the Slaidburn and Waddington Fells, the valleys of Whitewell, Newton and Slaidburn being especially picturesque.

There are vast tracts of Moor lands.

The chief means of employment is agricultural, the making of butter and cheese, together with the rearing of young Stock. Milk is produced in great quantity, and its sale is very important, as there are now seventy-one farmers who send day by day, their regular supply to various towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire, more especially to the former.

Handbills as supplied by the County Council have been sent to all Milk Sellers.

The acreage of the whole district is 83,343. Slaidburn covering more than one half.

POPULATION.

I consider the population to be about the same as for some years.

| | | | 1881. | 1891. | 1901-2 |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-------|-------|--------|
| Whole District | ... | ... | 5825 | 5292 | 5237 |
| Gisburn | ... | ... | 2023 | 1943 | 2560 |
| Slaidburn | ... | ... | 1489 | 1395 | 1395 |
| Clitheroe Sub-District | ... | ... | 1 36 | 1753 | 1136 |
| Whalley | ... | ... | 144 | 146 | 146 |
| | | | 5292 | 5237 | 5237 |

The marked difference in the Gisburn population is because Grindleton was added in the year 1902.

TEMPERATURE.

The mean temperature as taken at Stonyhurst Observatory is about 46 · 9 and the mean annual rainfall is about 47 · 7.

YEAR BOOK.

A valuable little Book is compiled by your Clerk, Mr. Thos. Eastham, I would advise every member of the Council to obtain a copy for reference.

DISINFECTING APPARATUS.

I leave this entirely for your consideration, because as you are aware, when necessary, we have burnt infected Clothing outright.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This is joint with the Borough of Clitheroe and the Lancashire Rural District, hitherto I have not had a single case to send to it. Of course as you are aware, this hospital

was put up for Smallpox cases, for which, however, there has been no need—thanks more especially to vaccination, and the good sense of the people, as I find that there is in the country up to now, little, or no objection to this very important matter.

OVERCROWDING.

We have no cases of overcrowding.

SCAVENGING, SEWERING AND DRAINING.

Waddington & Bolton-by-Bowland have public scavenging. The Nuisance Inspector has seen to and ordered removal of all offensive matter.

20 Slopstone Pipes and Drains have been attended to.

The Waddington Sewerage Scheme is nearly completed.

Bolton-by-Bowland and Grindleton you have under consideration.

WATER SUPPLY.

I have had no complaints this year from any of the Farmers, in fact the supply has been good.

The Waddington Supply is plentiful and quite satisfactory, but in time of floods there is discolouration. Another filtering bed would be beneficial.

The Mytton Water Supply is at present from its old source, Barrow Lodge, but I am told that an arrangement is being made with the Clitheroe Corporation for the future. In my opinion this will be a good scheme.

Samples of Water from Whitewell School and Cottages have been analysed with satisfactory results, this was done through Mr. Parmeter, the Agent to the Estate.

The supply to Dalehead is now good, and I hear is giving satisfaction.

I have no more to say about Bolton-by-Bowland, than in my Report for 1907.

Most of the Farm houses are supplied by means of wells and troughs, and in pipes from springs near to, or as can be most conveniently arranged.

Nothing more has been done as yet to improve the supply of Monibent, Carter Lane Head, Carr Hall, and farms above Waddington.

FACTORIES.

I have nothing more to say with regard to the Factories than what I said in my Report last year, i e., There are three Factories, one Tannery, one Bakehouse, and twenty-three Workshops.

Of the three Cotton Mills, two are at Grindleton, higher and lower, and one at West Bradford.

At each of these mills both steam and water power is available, a turbine being fixed in each mill for use when there is a good water supply.

About 104 people are employed at the Higher Mill, Grindleton, it is regularly whitewashed and kept clean. There is Closet accomodation for male and female.

About 20 people are employed at the lower Mill. This is an old fashioned Mill, and I believe was formerly used as a Corn Mill, and is evidently used because of its good water supply. The Closets are not so well arranged as they might be.

The West Bradford Mill gives employment regularly to about 50 people, this Mill is in a good position and under careful supervision. I consider the general arrangements good, and the sanitary condition of the mill is excellent. Electricity is used for lighting purposes here.

I have filled in the Tables so far as I can, as required by the Home Office, a duplicate of which is attached.

A Register of Workshops is kept at the Clerk's Office

ANTHRAX OR TUBERCULOSIS IN COWS.

There has been no report of either of these diseases during the year.

Neither has any form of diseased meat been offered for sale for human consumption. Mr. Burrows who is frequently in every part of the district, has been very particular with regard to this matter.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL CLOSING.

The School at Paythorne is nearly finished, and considering the number of children in the vicinity it is more than commodious.

In January, Whitewell School was closed from the 17th to February 4th on account of Measles.

On February 6th I went to Tosside Chapel School, and found the attendance poor, accounted for because at this time the weather was very severe, and some children live miles from school.

There were only 28 children in attendance out of 51 on the books. So we agreed to close until the 25th. Several cases of Whooping Cough and severe colds amongst children.

In November at Mytton a severe epidemic of Measles occurred, which so much affected the attendance, that on the 21st there were only 8 out of 40. So I at once arranged with two Managers that the school should be closed from November 21st to December 16th.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

I have only had 11 cases of Infectious Disease reported during the year, and these were chiefly in the Whitewell neighbourhood of the Slaidburn Division. 9 were Scarlet Fever and 2 Typhoid Fever.

Whitewell School was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and Mr. Burrows also personally fumigated, and disinfected the cottages where there had been Scarlet Fever, and the old clothing of the children was burnt right out. Fumigation was carried out in the two Typhoid cases.

NEW BUILDINGS.

Six new houses have been built at Grindleton, near Lower Mill, the Plans of which I presume have already been submitted for your consideration. If not, they should have been hence the necessity of at once adopting Building Bye-Laws.

VITAL STATISTICS, BIRTH RATE &c.

The number of Births in the whole district was 100 as compared to 104 last year.

40 were Males and 60 Females.

48 were born in the Gisburn District.

| | | | |
|-------|---|-------------------------|---|
| 24 | „ | Slaidburn | „ |
| 24 | „ | Clitheroe Sub-District. | |
| 4 | „ | Whalley | „ |
| <hr/> | | | |
| 100 | | | |

Two of the above were illegitimate.

This gives a Birth Rate of 19.2 per 1000 per annum, as compared with 19.9 of last year.

The rate still decreases, as the average for the last ten years is 22.4.

The following Table makes it clear.

| Years. | | Births. | Years. | | Births. |
|--------|-----|---------|--------|-----|---------|
| 1907 | ... | 100 | 1902 | ... | 114 |
| 1906 | ... | 104 | 1901 | ... | 124 |
| 1905 | ... | 104 | 1900 | ... | 123 |
| 1904 | ... | 133 | 1899 | ... | 131 |
| 1903 | ... | 115 | 1898 | ... | 117 |

The average last ten years is 117.8.

DEATH RATE, &c.

There were Fifty-Six Deaths throughout the year, which gives a Death Rate of 10.69 as compared with 11.8 of last year and 13.1 for 1905.

Out of these registered Deaths, Four Inquests were held. Three were from Phthisis in elderly persons, and Twelve from Bronchitis or Pneumonia, and Twenty-four were in persons of over Sixty-five years of age, some attaining to a very old age.

THE INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Is very low, in fact, I should consider it nearly a normal condition of things. The rate is 50.0 as compared to 86.6 in 1906. Five Children under 1 year were registered. Two, Natural Debility, one probably injured at birth, one Whooping Cough and one Diarrhoea.

There were 28 Males and 28 Females.

SEE TABLE II.

Of these Deaths

33 were registered in Gisburn District.

12 " Slaidburn "

11 " Clitheroe Sub-District.

0 " Whalley.

56

There was not a single death from Zymotic Disease excepting the one from Whooping Cough,

For causes of Death see Table IV.

There were Two Deaths in the Workhouse of persons belonging to the district.

It is interesting to note how few are the cases of Notification of Infectious Diseases compared with other years. There were 11 in all as compared with 48 in 1906, and 33 in 1905. Nine of these were Scarlet Fever, 8 of which were in the Slaidburn District and 1 in Gisburn District.

In November and December the epidemic of Measles at Mytton was very evident, as most of the children were stricken within a few days of each other, the symptoms being very marked and distinct.

At the end of the year there were no other reports of serious sickness, in fact, there is little sickness of any kind.

The case of Typhoid in the Whitewell district is doing well, this was supposed to have been contracted when the person was away from home.

Mr. Burrows, the Nuisance Inspector, has given every attention when infectious disease has been reported.

Appended are the Two Mortality Tables as required by you.

Tables I, II, III, IV and V, as required by the Local Government Board, and the Table asked for by the Medical Officer of the County.

I also attach the Report of the Nuisance Inspector.

Clitheroe, February 4th, 1907.

NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To J. J. Smithies, Esq., Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

I herewith submit to you my Annual Report for the past year.

At the present time there are 71 Farmers in the Bowland Rural District who are now selling milk. The milk in every instance is sent away by train except in two cases, and they send it into Clitheroe and Waddington. Since my last Report there are six other farmers who have commenced milk kitting, and in several cases there are certain defects in their buildings &c. I shall give notice in the coming Spring for the necessary alterations required to be made during the coming summer when the cattle are out to grass.

The farmers commence in almost all cases without sending any notice as to their intention of sending milk away, they change their stock, and get equipments &c., before thinking anything about the buildings in their occupation as to whether they are fit or not for sending milk away. I think this might be remedied by the District Council issuing notices occasionally through the District warning Farmers to apply to have their premises registered before commencing to send away their milk.

There are six Slaughter Houses in the District, which are within the area of the new Bye-Laws made for Slaughter Houses, each occupier has been supplied with a copy of the Regulations, but up to the time of writing only two have applied for Licenses, and the same have been granted. The remainder are having their premises put into better condition.

There have been twenty Slopstones Drains disconnected and trapped during the year, and two new Closets erected. The District generally is getting into a better sanitary condition.

With reference to the Water Supply for the village of Bolton-by-Bowland, I may say at the present time the Rural District Council are about to arrange terms for a supply to the village.

Grindleton village might be greatly improved if a public Scavenger was appointed so that the Ashpits and Privies in the village were emptied at regular intervals.

I have supplied disinfectants to all places where any Infectious Disease has been reported, and fumigation has been carried out personally, or according to instructions when the same were required. The Whitewell School I have thoroughly fumigated during the Xmas Holidays, and a sample of the drinking water has been sent away for Analysis, and the report on same received is in every way satisfactory. I also had a quantity of clothing destroyed at a cottage at Whitewell where Scarlet Fever had been, and the occupier was paid the value by the Council for amount of goods destroyed.

All the Schools in the District have had a supply of Disinfectants as requested, and also the Scavengers of Bolton-by-Bowland and Waddington have been kept supplied with Carbolic Powder for use when emptying the pails on their rounds when cleaning the same.

The Rural District Council are at the present time having prepared Model Building Bye-Laws to suit the whole of the District with reference to all new Buildings. With regard to new Cowsheds where people are sending away their milk into large towns I consider for our District these ought to have an air space of 400 cubic feet per cow, and to be properly lighted, and the floors made of concrete or proper setts and filled in with concrete.

I remain, yours truly,

ALFRED BURROW,

Gisburn, Feby. 8th, 1908.

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1907 and previous years.

BOWLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

| YEAR. | Population estimated to Middle of each year. | Births. | | Total Deaths registered in the District. | | | | Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District. 9 | Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District. | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------|-------|---|--|--------------|-------|---|--|------|
| | | Number | Rate. | Under 1 Year of age | | At all ages. | | | Number | Rate |
| | | | | Number | Rate per 1000 Births Registered | Number | Rate. | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1897 | 5292 | 113 | 21·3 | 13 | 115 | 92 | 17·3 | ... | 92 | 17·3 |
| 1898 | " | 117 | 22·1 | 5 | 42·7 | 61 | 11·5 | ... | 61 | 11·5 |
| 1899 | " | 131 | 24·9 | 6 | 45·8 | 67 | 12·6 | ... | 67 | 12·6 |
| 1900 | " | 123 | 23·2 | 8 | 65 | 81 | 15·6 | ... | 81 | 15·6 |
| 1901 | 5237 | 124 | 23·6 | 8 | 65 | 69 | 13·1 | ... | 69 | 13·1 |
| 1902 | " | 114 | 21·7 | 9 | 78·9 | 64 | 12·2 | ... | 64 | 12·2 |
| 1903 | " | 115 | 21·9 | 11 | 95·6 | 69 | 13·1 | ... | 69 | 13·1 |
| 1904 | " | 133 | 25·3 | 10 | 75·2 | 73 | 13·6 | ... | 73 | 13·6 |
| 1905 | " | 104 | 19·8 | 7 | 67·3 | 69 | 13·1 | 2 | 71 | 13·5 |
| 1906 | " | 104 | 19·8 | 9 | 86·6 | 62 | 11·8 | 5 | 67 | 12·7 |
| Averages for years 1897-06 | 5259 | 117·8 | 22·4 | 8·6 | 73·7 | 70·7 | 13·4 | ... | 71·4 | 13·5 |
| 1907 | 5237 | 100 | 19·2 | 5 | 50 | 56 | 10·69 | 2 | 58 | 10·9 |

Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 11 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)
83343a. 9r. 21p.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|----------------------|
| Total population at all ages | 5237 | } At Census of 1901. |
| Number of Inhabited Houses | 1144 | |
| Average number of persons per house | 4·58 | |

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1907 and previous years.

BOWLAND RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

| YEAR. | Population estimated to Middle of each year. | Births. | | Total Deaths registered in the District. | | | | Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District. 9 | Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District. | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------|-------|---|---|--------------|-------|---|--|------|
| | | Number | Rate. | Under 1 Year of age | | At all ages. | | | Number | Rate |
| | | | | Number | Rate per 1000 Births Registered 6 | Number | Rate. | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 1897 | 5292 | 113 | 21.3 | 13 | 115 | 92 | 17.3 | ... | 92 | 17.3 |
| 1898 | " | 117 | 22.1 | 5 | 42.7 | 61 | 11.5 | ... | 61 | 11.5 |
| 1899 | " | 131 | 24.9 | 6 | 45.8 | 67 | 12.6 | ... | 67 | 12.6 |
| 1900 | " | 123 | 23.2 | 8 | 65 | 81 | 15.6 | ... | 81 | 15.6 |
| 1901 | 5237 | 124 | 23.6 | 8 | 65 | 69 | 13.1 | ... | 69 | 13.1 |
| 1902 | " | 114 | 21.7 | 9 | 78.9 | 64 | 12.2 | ... | 64 | 12.2 |
| 1903 | " | 115 | 21.9 | 11 | 95.6 | 69 | 13.1 | ... | 69 | 13.1 |
| 1904 | " | 133 | 25.3 | 10 | 75.2 | 73 | 13.6 | ... | 73 | 13.6 |
| 1905 | " | 104 | 19.8 | 7 | 67.3 | 69 | 13.1 | 2 | 71 | 13.5 |
| 1906 | " | 104 | 19.8 | 9 | 86.6 | 62 | 11.8 | 5 | 67 | 12.7 |
| Averages for years 1897-06 | 5259 | 117.8 | 22.4 | 8.6 | 73.7 | 70.7 | 13.4 | ... | 71.4 | 13.5 |
| 1907 | 5237 | 100 | 19.2 | 5 | 50 | 56 | 10.69 | 2 | 58 | 10.9 |

Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 11 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)
83343a. 9r. 2ip.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|----------------------|
| Total population at all ages | 5237 | } At Census of 1901. |
| Number of Inhabited Houses | 1144 | |
| Average number of persons per house | 4.58 | |



Table II. Vital Statistics of separate

BOWLAND RURAL

| Names of Localities. | WHOLE | | | | GISBURN | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---|
| Year. | Population estimated to middle of each year | Births registered | Deaths at all Ages | Deaths under 1 year | Population estimated to middle of each year | Births registered | Deaths at all Ages | Deaths under 1 year | Population estimated to middle of each year |
| | <i>a</i> | <i>b</i> | <i>c</i> | <i>d</i> | <i>a</i> | <i>b</i> | <i>c</i> | <i>d</i> | <i>a</i> |
| 1897 | 5292 | 113 | 92 | 13 | 2023 | 46 | 43 | 7 | 1489 |
| 1898 | " | 117 | 61 | 5 | " | 51 | 22 | 1 | " |
| 1899 | " | 131 | 67 | 6 | " | 40 | 24 | 4 | " |
| 1900 | " | 123 | 81 | 8 | " | 51 | 36 | 5 | " |
| 1901 | 5237 | 124 | 69 | 8 | 2560 | 66 | 42 | 4 | 1395 |
| 1902 | " | 114 | 64 | 9 | " | 55 | 26 | 2 | " |
| 1903 | " | 115 | 69 | 11 | " | 57 | 28 | 4 | " |
| 1904 | " | 133 | 73 | 10 | " | 72 | 35 | 5 | " |
| 1905 | " | 104 | 69 | 7 | " | 49 | 35 | 4 | " |
| 1906 | " | 104 | 62 | 9 | " | 56 | 27 | 6 | " |
| Average of Years 1897-06 | " | 117.8 | 70.7 | 8.6 | " | 54.3 | 31.8 | 4.2 | " |
| 1907 | 5237 | 100 | 56 | 5 | 2560 | 48 | 33 | 2 | 1395 |

ities in 1907 and previous years.

TRICT COUNCIL.

| EN | | CLITHEROE SUB-DISTRICT | | | | WHALLEY SUB-DISTRICT | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deaths at all Ages | Deaths under 1 year | Population estimated to middle of each year | Births registered | Deaths at all Ages | Deaths under 1 year | Population estimated to middle of each year | Births registered | Deaths at all Ages | Deaths under 1 year |
| <i>c</i> | <i>d</i> | <i>a</i> | <i>b</i> | <i>c</i> | <i>d</i> | <i>a</i> | <i>b</i> | <i>c</i> | <i>d</i> |
| 22 | 4 | 1636 | 35 | 26 | 2 | 144 | 1 | 1 | ... |
| 16 | 2 | " | 29 | 19 | 1 | " | ... | 4 | 1 |
| 15 | 1 | " | 35 | 26 | 1 | " | 2 | 2 | ... |
| 21 | ... | " | 38 | 24 | 3 | " | 7 | ... | ... |
| 10 | 1 | 1136 | 23 | 12 | 2 | 146 | 6 | 1 | 1 |
| 19 | 4 | " | 22 | 17 | 2 | " | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 18 | 4 | " | 31 | 19 | 2 | " | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 20 | 2 | " | 24 | 15 | 2 | " | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| 13 | 1 | " | 22 | 16 | 1 | " | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 20 | 1 | " | 22 | 15 | 2 | " | 4 | ... | ... |
| 7.4 | 2 | " | 28.1 | 18.9 | 1.8 | " | 3.2 | 2.1 | 0.6 |
| 12 | 1 | 1136 | 24 | 11 | 2 | 146 | 4 | ... | ... |

Causes of, and Ages at

BOWLAND RURAL

| Causes of Death. | | | Deaths at the subject occurring in | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| | | | All ages. | Under 1 year | 1 year and upwards |
| Whooping-cough | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | |
| Diarrhœa | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | |
| Enteretis | ... | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Phthisis | .. | ... | 3 | ... | |
| Cancer | ... | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | 7 | ... | |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | 5 | ... | |
| Heart Disease | ... | ... | 4 | ... | |
| Suicides | ... | . | 1 | ... | |
| Found Dead, Inquest | ... | ... | 2 | . | |
| Misadventure | „ | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Natural Causes | „ | ... | 1 | ... | |
| All other causes | ... | ... | 30 | 3 | |
| All causes | ... | ... | 58 | 5 | |

TABLE IV.

Deaths during the Year, 1907.

DISTRICT COUNCIL.

| Deaths of "Residents" whether in or beyond the District. | | | Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to Localities whether occurring in or beyond the District. | | | |
|--|----------------------|-----------------|--|-----------|----------------|--------------|
| 15 and under 25 yrs. | 25 and under 65 yrs. | 65 and upwards. | Gisburn | Slaidburn | Clitheroe Sub. | Whalley Sub. |
| ... | ... | ... | I | ... | ... | ... |
| ... | .. | ... | ... | I | ... | ... |
| ... | ... | ... | I | ... | .. | ... |
| ... | 2 | I | 3 | ... | ... | ... |
| ... | I | ... | I | ... | ... | ... |
| ... | 2 | 4 | 4 | ... | 3 | ... |
| 2 | 3 | ... | I | 4 | ... | ... |
| ... | I | 3 | 3 | I | ... | ... |
| ... | I | ... | I | ... | ... | ... |
| ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... |
| ... | ... | I | I | ... | ... | ... |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | I | ... | ... |
| ... | 3 | 24 | 16 | 7 | 7 | ... |
| 2 | 15 | 33 | 34 | 14 | 10 | ... |

